

PRESS RELEASE #1

SAJETA 2026: A NEW CHAPTER AT KARAVLA (A FORMER MILITARY OUTPOST) IN BREGINJ

27th Sajeta International Music & Arts Festival

16–18 July 2026

Karavla, Breginj, Slovenia

After nearly three decades of artistic exploration, musical discoveries and unforgettable encounters at the confluence of the Soča and Tolminka rivers, **Sajeta Festival** is embarking on a new chapter in its story. The 27th edition of the international music and arts festival, one of the longest-running and most distinctive festivals of contemporary independent culture in Slovenia and beyond, will take place for the first time at a new location: **Karavla – Most na Nadiži in Breginj**, on the edge of the Julian Alps and just a few steps from the Italian border.

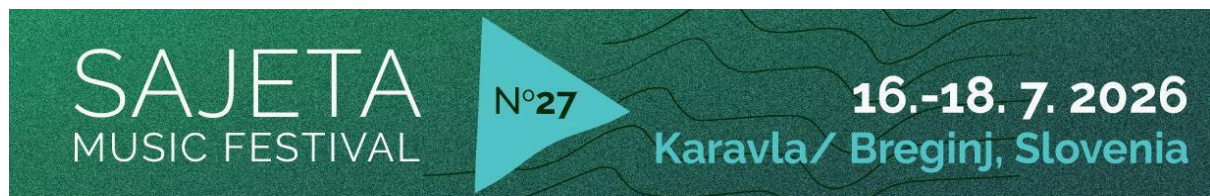
A Festival for the Curious

A cultural phenomenon from the margins, Sajeta has, since 1998, presented internationally relevant programmes that rival many larger alternative festivals around the world. At the same time, it has preserved an intimate atmosphere that allows audiences to experience performances up close and become part of a temporary creative community.

Sajeta creates a space for curiosity, musical exploration and artistic freedom without submitting to trends or commercial expectations. Over the years, it has developed a distinctive identity by avoiding genre limitations and conventional festival formats. Its audience does not attend merely for a single concert or headline act; visitors trust the festival's curatorial vision and come with a desire to discover something new – a quality that has become increasingly rare today.

While most festivals focus on a particular musical genre or scene, Sajeta has, from the very beginning, thrived at the intersection of diverse artistic practices and musical expressions. A concert by a Japanese psychedelic band can easily coexist with a performance by a pioneering feminist artist, a creative workshop or an experimental film screening.

Throughout its history, Sajeta has hosted numerous influential artists from both the international and Slovenian alternative and experimental scenes. Among the many names that have appeared over the years are Damo Suzuki, The Fall, Phill Niblock, Biosphere, Sainkho Namtchylak, Christian Fennesz, Bo Ningen, Zahra Mani, Alexander Balanescu, Gudrun Gut, BaBa ZuLa, Caterina Barbieri, Burnt Friedman, Irena Tomažin, Mani Neumeier, Mia Zabelka, The Orb, Lydia Lunch, Red Snapper, Yvonne Moriel, Ingrid Schmoliner, Laura Agnusdei, Marko Brecelj, Bratko Bibič, Širom, Zlatko Kaučič, Tomaž Grom, Darko Rundek, Obojeni program and many other musicians and artists who have significantly shaped contemporary music, sound art and interdisciplinary culture.



Sajeta 2026

This year's programme remains faithful to the festival's philosophy of openness and exploration. Artists from Japan, Ghana, the United Kingdom, Scandinavia, Italy, Croatia, Serbia, Hungary, Germany and Slovenia will take the stage in a former military outpost.

Among the featured artists are the legendary Japanese progressive-psychedelic trio **Green Milk From The Planet Orange**, electronic duo **WaqWaq Kingdom**, Croatian live-electronic phenomenon **ABOP**, the international improvisational collective **BiTOI**, Slovenian experimental innovators **Etceteral**, and many other musicians and interdisciplinary artists.

A special highlight of this year's programme is the performance of **Katalin Ladik**, a pioneer of feminist performance and sound art and one of the oldest still-active artists in Europe. Presented within the framework of the Mink Association Tolmin project ***The Future of Feminist Performance***, the event will also feature Irena Tomažin and Bojana (S) Knežević, whose performances are inspired by the artistic legacy of Katalin Ladik.

In addition to concerts, the festival will offer workshops, film screenings, performances and lectures, all of which have long contributed to the unique Sajeta experience.

The Location

The move to Breginj opens new possibilities for the festival's development while preserving its essence: building a community connected through curiosity, creativity and respect for diversity.

Surrounded by the dramatic scenery of the Julian Alps and the crystal-clear waters of the Nadiža River, the new location will become a place for memorable encounters, artistic exchange and shared experiences.

At a time when cultural life is increasingly shaped by algorithms, speed and predictability, Sajeta remains a space for slower, deeper engagement with art and for discovering new musical horizons. More immersed in nature than ever before, the festival continues its mission of fostering artistic freedom, dialogue and community.

The festival is supported by the Ministry of Culture of the Republic of Slovenia, the EU-Japan Fest Foundation and the Alps-Adriatic Alliance.

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